GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3688
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
DESIGNS OF AL QUIDA
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Al-Quida may cross the border aiming at overthrowing the President Pervez Musharraf`sregime with the help of a civil war as reported in the Tribune dated October 16, 2001; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Government have seen the report appearing in the Tribune on 16th October 2001.

(b) As part of its policy of sponsoring cross border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India, Pakistan has been sponsoring terrorist groups, and groups that propagate violent and obscurantist ideologies. Concerns are being expressed about the impact that these policies are having on Pakistan`s own long-term stability. This is often reflected in the coverage that Pakistan receives in the media.

Pakistan has no alternative but to end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. Thewidespread consensus in the international community is that there can be no justification for terrorism, and that terrorism must be eradicated wherever it exists. Government have on several occasions reiterated their firm resolve to take all necessary measures to defeat terrorism.